

REMARKS

Claim 1 is pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 9 and to correct an obvious typographical error from claim 9. Claims 2-10 have been canceled.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) do not present any additional claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Claim 9 was objected to based on an informality. Claim 1, which includes the features of claim 9, has been amended to correct the obvious typographical error. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Haneda et al. (Haneda), U.S. Patent No. 4,996,634, in view of Suzuki, U.S. Patent No. 4,809,144. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Haneda and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest a combination of a car bumper and light unit, with the car bumper comprising an outside skin formed by a wall of plastics material and the light unit having, as component elements, both a housing and glass enabling light emitted by a light source to be diffused, wherein the component element of the light unit formed by the outside skin is the glass, the glass being assembled to the outside skin in a permanent and non-removable manner, as recited in claim 1.

Haneda discloses a bumper shell 1 with a signal lamp 10 attached to the bumper shell 1 (col. 3, lines 18 and 19). As admitted on page 3 of the Office Action, Haneda fails to disclose glass for enabling light emitted by a light source to be diffused. Accordingly, there is no teaching, motivation of suggestion to use the outside skin of Haneda's bumper shell 1 as

the glass component element of the light unit with the glass being assembled to the outside skin in a permanent and non-removable manner, as recited in claim 1 and as illustrated by Applicants' Fig. 8, for example, (where the component element of the light unit formed by the outside skin is the glass).

Suzuki discloses a vehicle headlamp (Fig. 1) with a lens 2 that is attached to a housing 1. Although the vehicle head lamp is attached to a vehicle, Suzuki fails to disclose a car bumper that is attached to the vehicle. Accordingly, Suzuki fails to provide any teaching, motivation or suggestion with regard to using the outside skin of a car bumper as the glass component element of the light unit.

Page 5 of the Office Action states that the glass as part of the outside skin is old and well known in the illumination art and refers to Jones et al. (Jones), U.S. Patent No. 5,850,803 to support this assertion. This interpretation is not correct because claim 9 (incorporated into claim 1) recites that the component element of the light unit formed by the outside skin is the glass. In Jones, the headlights 28, 30 are separate from and above the outside skin of the deckline 32 (bumper). Accordingly, the glass component element of Jones (transparent lens cover 34) is not formed by the outside skin of the deckline 32. Jones also teaches away from using the outside skin of the deck line 32 as the glass component element of the light unit because, as shown in Fig. 3, an operator could not enter the headlight compartment 36 to replace a light source.

The Office Action's assertion that the combination recited in claim 1 is old and well known is not correct. Applicants' have identified an advantage provided by an undisclosed combination of features. The combination recited in claim 1 is advantageous in reducing the volume occupied by the rigid portions of the light unit, so that any deformation of the car bumper surrounding the light unit can take place without the rigid portions of the light unit

being harmed (specification, page 2, lines 18-24). None of Haneda, Suzuki or Jones can achieve this advantage.

In view of the foregoing, Haneda and Suzuki fail to disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 1 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:SMS/kzb

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 22, 2005

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